

# MHSA Innovation Public Hearing Comments

## July 6, 2011

### Inn-01

**Public Comment:** Will IDT consist of Hospital Staff as well as County staff?

**Name/Agency:** David W- Mental Health America

**County Response:** Plan draft will note this for addition/consideration.

**Public Comment:** The IDT team needs to work more closely with hospital staff working as a team (composed of county/hospital staff)

**Name/Agency:** Mental Health America

**County Response:** The County is proposing to incorporate this recommendation into the revised plan.

**Public Comment:** What is the difference between IDT and OPTIONS?

**Name/Agency:** Helen S- Interfaith Alliance

**County Response:** IDT targets short stay individuals and to stop the cycle of several admissions by this population. OPTIONS in comparison is a long term outpatient program.

**Public Comment:** How many people are anticipated to be served by IDT?

**Name/Agency:** Helen S- Central California Interfaith Alliance

**County Response:** Based on the data received for clients that were being discharged within 24 hours of admission we anticipated 500 individuals to be served.

**Public Comment:** Will Co-Occurring clients be referred to Substance Abuse programs or be excluded?

**Name/Agency:** Carla F- Peer Support Specialist

**County Response:** Co-occurring will be included, but IDT is not limited to only serving that population.

**Public Comment:** Will Crestwood be included as an inpatient facility?

**Name/Agency:** Carolyn E- Mental Health Board

**County Response:** Yes, will be clarified in the plan draft.

**Public Comment:** Is there a buy-in from Hospitals. IDT may be underutilized.

**Name/Agency:** Carolyn E- Mental Health Board

**County Response:** It is anticipated to have collaboration with Hospitals. Cost of admissions is high and this is designed to aid in reduction of admits.

**Public Comment:** Will this be voluntary on the consumer's part?

**Name/Agency:** Member of the public

**County Response:** Yes

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**Public Comment:** Hospitals will probably want us to help so they don't have clients returning as frequently.

**Name/Agency:** Ricky M- Mental Health Board

**County Response:** n/a

**Public Comment:** Will weekend, nights, and holidays be included?

**Name/Agency:** Carolyn E- Mental Health Board

**County Response:** We are seeking expanded non-traditional hours.

### Inn-02

**Public Comment:** Will transportation be available?

**Name/Agency:** Member of the Public

**County Response:** Yes, the plan will involve transportation and safety will be in mind.

**Public Comment:** Do consumers really want this?

**Name/Agency:** Carolyn E- Mental Health Board

**County Response:** An extensive Stakeholder process was conducted and the top ideas identified by stakeholders were chosen.

**Public Comment:** Does the target population include the homeless?

**Name/Agency:** Carolyn E- Mental Health Board

**County Response:** Yes, those with mental illness that may be homeless at time of crisis or post crisis

**Public Comment:** Concerned about underutilization

**Name/Agency:** Carolyn E- Mental Health Board

**County Response:** Data and public comments indicate that need is great for these type of services. Also benefit of the consumer and ED's that clients would be appropriately served.

**Public Comment:** Good plan, as it is voluntary. It is better than being recycled back into the system involuntarily

**Name/Agency:** David T- Mental Health Board

**County Response:**

**Public Comment:** It is a safe place if someone is starting new meds, and is a warm handoff with the lowest level of care necessary.

**Name/Agency:** Ricky M- Mental Health Board

**County Response:**

**Public Comment:** Who decides at the ER what individuals are referred to the Stay? Concerns about overutilization were expressed as well.

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**Name/Agency:** Jeff G- Kings View

**County Response:** Those seen in the ED go through an assessment process, and at that time it would be an option for ER staff to refer consumers to this proposed program.

**Public Comment:** Will this include the DBH staff located in the ERs?

**Name/Agency:** Ricky M- Mental Health Board

**County Response:** Yes, CPRS staff stationed in CRMC will have this resource as well

**Public Comment:** Transitional housing has problems, keep those in mind when implementing this team.

**Name/Agency:** Member of the public

**County Response:** This program is more designed towards overnight stay with support being offered by the ED team for linkage and follow-up.

### Inn-03

**Public Comment:** First Amendment Issues

**Name/Agency:** Ricky M reading a comment on behalf of Curt T- Mental Health Board

**County Response:** The Holistic Center will act as an informational/educational outlet and will link consumers to cultural forms of treatment and healing. Utilizing the Holistic center will be optional for consumers and increase awareness and access to alternative options

**Public Comment:** Not sure how one center can encompass all cultures. Outreach may be better. Fresno County is very diverse, and not all cultures may want to work together.

**Name/Agency:** David W- Mental Health America

**County Response:** The center will provide outreach as well as education. All cultures, not just the primary un-served underserved cultures will be included and invited to be a part of the center. An addendum plan may include a Holistic Advisory Council will be developed, who will ensure that all who want to be involved are aware of the center's existence and this Council (comprised of members from the community) will provide recommendations on the design and development of this center.

**Public Comment:** There have been a whole genre of non-religious practices that have been reintroduced, such as leeches and acupuncture. The person providing the treatment doesn't have to be a person representing any spiritual group.

**Name/Agency:** Jill

**County Response:**

**Public Comment:** Problem with the legality of the Holistic Center. Has legal advice been sought when writing the plan?

**Name/Agency:** Carolyn E- Mental Health Board

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**County Response:** Research and consultations with agencies such as Oversight and Accountability Commission and Office of Multicultural Services has been done, in addition review of other approved County Innovation plans have been conducted, state organizations have reviewed the plan and did not identify any issues. In addition, this plan is being edited to address some of the concerns made at the Public Hearing. The Holistic Center was chosen by stakeholders as the # 1 priority, and is not designed to replace mental health treatment, but to provide options for alternative culturally appropriate services.

**Public Comment:** This is not a crisis stabilization unit; nor a treatment facility.

**Name/Agency:**

**County Response:**

**Public Comment:** This was discussed during PEI planning as well.

**Name/Agency:** Donna N- Blue Sky

**County Response:**

**Public Comment:** MHSA was created for un-served and underserved groups. Shamans can be found in all faiths, and some individuals may feel more comfortable seeing a Shaman than they would clinical services. This center is inclusive, not exclusive.

**Name/Agency:** Ricky M- Mental Health Board

**County Response:** This plan is being edited to address some of the concerns made at the Public Hearing

**Public Comment:** It is a spiritual issue. Blue Sky couldn't even have a 12-step program due to religious connotations.

**Name/Agency:** Carolyn E- Mental Health Board

**County Response:** Public comments were made that in fact Blue Sky does have a 12 step program or something similar to this. In addition, this plan is being edited to address some of the concerns made at the Public Hearing

**Public Comment:** Blue Sky can have a 12-step program, and it would be allowed because no one would be mandated to attend.

**Name/Agency:** Donna N- Blue Sky

**County Response:**

**Public Comment:** "I want a legal opinion"

**Name/Agency:** Carolyn E- Mental Health Board

**County Response:** MHSA will post information received and research conducted along with comments from Public Hearing

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**Public Comment:** Concerned people and DBH can meet with Central California Interfaith Alliance. That is what CCIA does up and down the state, ensures that public gatherings are legal. CCIA may be a better resource than attorneys.

**Name/Agency:** Helen S-Central California Interfaith Alliance

**County Response:** We will set up a meeting to discuss any possible legal concerns. In addition, this plan is being edited to address some of the concerns made at the Public Hearing

**Public Comment:** The First Amendment prohibits the making of any law to establish religion. The Holistic Center does not entail establishing any religion. Mental health treatment has evolved and changed, it is not what it was 50 years ago, or even what it was 10 years ago. Described the use of lavender obtained from a Shaman to calm down someone in crisis and how it had no religious connotation.

**Name/Agency:** Ricky M- Mental Health Board

**County Response:**

**Public Comment:** Will there be a witch doctor there?

**Name/Agency:** Member of the public

**County Response:** The proposed and revised plan had no reference to witch doctor.

**Public Comment:** Homeopathy is a useful and successful alternative treatment.

**Name/Agency:** Maria LE- Interpreter

**County Response:**

**Public Comment:** Use of all cultures needs to be made. A meeting should be held with Central California Interfaith Alliance

**Name/Agency:** Jeff - Kings View

**County Response:** All cultures will have an opportunity to participate in the center, as we want to be inclusive.

**Public Comment:** No one will be force to go to the center.

**Name/Agency:** David T- Mental Health Board

**County Response:**

**Public Comment:** It is important to take the time to listen to people and to talk with them. Words used to describe consumers can be offensive, all should be cautious of the words they use.

**Name/Agency:** Linda S- NAMI

**County Response:**

**Public Comment:** A diverse group of people could benefit from the center. Alternative medicine is not about religion. It is a place where everyone can come and see someone who looks like them.

**Name/Agency:** Connie C- Fresno County DBH MHSA

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### County Response:

**Public Comment:** We need to be upfront and open from the beginning about what the center is and what it is not. We need to ensure that all who have written and developed this plan are aware of Merced and their plan and the types of treatment that will bring people to wellness.

**Name/Agency:** Helen S-Central California Interfaith Alliance

**County Response:** The center could be implemented and seen as educational “museum” which will guide consumers to service. It will be about education, knowledge and awareness, in addition to other services to be designed at a future date.

**Public Comment:** Innovations is a unique finding source, with the primary focus of learning. The center will focus on the whole person both body and mind. Because of these alternatives, we can get around the stigma many cultures have regarding mental health treatment. We would like members of each community to be a part of this.

**Name/Agency:** Preet S- Fresno County DBH MHSA

**County Response:**

**Public Comment:** “I once was homeless and had cats and I would sleep outside of a church, that didn’t mean I was a part of that church; I utilized what resources I had available to me.”

**Name/Agency:** Jill

**County Response:**

**Public Comment:** Consumers will be able to relate to this for anxiety, depression, etc. By culturally embracing the matter it will give them the opportunity to heal. This broadens treatment options for consumers.

**Name/Agency:** Ricky M-Mental Health Board

**County Response:**

**Public Comment:** Is this where you go and be referred to; not have to sniff incense?

**Name/Agency:** Member of the public

**County Response:** A variety of services are envisioned – education, linkage and other services as indicated in the revised plan.

**Public Comment:** Take a look at Healthy House in Merced. It has been in operation for 18 years and offers alternative ways of healing. The center will be an information exchange and resource exchange.

**Name/Agency:** Connie C- Fresno County DBH MHSA

**County Response:**

**Public Comment:** Will there be age restrictions?

**Name/Agency:** Member of the public

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**County Response:** It is not designed to be age specific.

**Public Comment:** Will the plan be re-written?

**Name/Agency:** Carolyn E- Mental Health Board

**County Response:** We will list the input received here at the Public Hearing and create addendums/notes to identify a revised draft plan.

**Public Comment:** Different Counties were working on bringing in Shamans to hospitals, it won't just be anybody, but will be trusted members of the community.

**Name/Agency:** Chris T- Centro La Familia

**County Response:**

**Public Comment:** What is the length of funding?

**Name/Agency:** Jeff G- Kings View

**County Response:** The plans in general have 3 year funding associated with them. The initial Innovation FY 08/09 and 09/10 funds will be used with additional FY's funds to be used also. The programs are designed to meet the learning goals identified in each plan. The term of the program can be adjusted as needed based on the learning goals achieved.

**\*Public Comment:** Recommendation to combine all 3 plans into one

**Name/Agency:** Mental Health America

**County Response:** This would be difficult to accomplish as each plan is not directly related to the other and each one has some uniqueness that would be better served under separate plans. In addition, future editing of plans would be more easily achieved if the plans are left separate.

**\*Public Comment:** For INN-03 Holistic Center recommendation is to have separate sites as compared to one holistic site.

**Name/Agency:** Mental Health America

**County Response:** The County will be revising the Holistic plan to identify changes addresses at the Public hearing, though one site for education, linkage, Holistic Advisory Council (made of members of the community) will be recommended for development/design of the center.

**\*Received as letter after Public Hearing regarding content discussed at the Hearing.**